

OXFORD

NEW

HORIZONS

Sacred
SATB and organ

— CECILIA MCDOWALL —
Vita Mundo

ecclesiastical choral music, and dedicated to his wife and two sons and all whom they hold most dear.

First performed by the Choir of Merton College Chapel, Oxford,
conductor Benjamin Nicholas, on 17 November, 2013, in the Collège Chapel

Vita Mundo

In hoc singulari signo vita redditur mundo

Texts taken from the image of a Saxon cross
at St Paul's, Jarrow, Northumbria
and Psalm 127

CECILIA McDOWALL

Expressive, always flowing ♩ = 52–56

SOPRANO *mp* freely, quasi plainchant
In hoc sin-gu-la-ri

ALTO *mp* freely, quasi plainchant
In hoc

TENOR *mp* freely, quasi plainchant
In hoc sin-gu-la-ri

BASS *mp* freely, quasi plainchant
In hoc

ORGAN
mp Solo *mf* *mp*
Man. (Man.)

5
sig - no vi - ta mun -
sig - no vi - ta red - di - tur
sig - no vi - ta red - di - tur
sig - no vi - ta red - di - tur mun -

mf freely 3 *mp*

A tempo

mp

10

-do. Un-less the Lord,

mun - do. Un-less the Lord,

mun - do. Un-less the Lord,

-do, mun - do. Un-less the Lord,

(Man.) Ped. 8'

14

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

*mp cresc.**p*

Un-less the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, the watch-men stand guard in vain.

*mp cresc.**p*

Un-less the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, the watch-men stand guard in vain.

*mp cresc.**p*

Un-less the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, the watch-men stand guard in vain.

*mp cresc.**p*

Un-less the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, the watch-men stand guard in vain.

*mp cresc.**(p)**p legato*

Man.

*mf**mf*

In vain you rise ear-ly and stay up late,

*mf**mf*

In vain you rise ear-ly and stay up late,

*mf**mf*

In vain you rise ear-ly and stay up late,

*mf**mf*

In vain, in vain,

mf

Ped.

26 *f* *mp dolce*

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f *mp dolce*

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f *mp dolce*

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f *mp dolce*

toil - ing for food to eat, to eat, for he grants sleep to

f *mp dolce*

30 *poco* *mp*

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta

poco *mp*

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red - di -

poco *mp*

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red -

poco *mp*

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red - di -

mf *mp*

Bright (l'istesso tempo)

34

poco *mf*

mun - do, mun - do. Sons are a he - ri-tage from the

poco *mf*

-tur mun - do. Sons are a he - ri-tage from the

poco *mf*

di-tur mun - do. Sons are a he - ri-tage from the

poco *mf*

-tur mun - do, mun - do. Sons are a he - ri-tage from the

mf *f* *mf legato*

Man.

38

f

Lord, child-ren a re - ward from him. Like ar - rows, like ar - rows,

f

Lord, child-ren a re - ward. Like ar - rows, ar - rows in the

f

Lord, child-ren a re - ward. Are sons

f

Lord, re - ward. Are sons

f

Ped. (16')

42

like ar - rows, ar - rows.

hands of a war - ri - or.

born, born, born in one's youth.

born, born, born in one's youth.

46

A tempo

mf Bless-ed is the man ***mf*** whose qui - ver is full,

mf Bless-ed is the man ***mf*** whose qui - ver is full,

mf Bless-ed is the man ***mf*** whose qui - ver is full,

mf Bless-ed is the man ***mf*** whose qui - ver is full,

mp ***mp***

Ped. 8'

qui - ver is full of them. They will not be put to shame

qui - ver is full of them. They will not be put to shame

qui - ver is full of them. They will not be put to shame

qui - ver is full of them. They con - tend,

p *mf* *f* *mf*

Man.

when they con-tend with their e - ne - mies in the gate, in the gate.

when they con - tend with their e - ne - mies, with their e - ne - mies in the gate.

when they con-tend they con - tend with their e - ne - mies.

they con - tend, they con - tend with their e - ne - mies in the

f *f* *f* *f*

mf *f*

Ped. (16')

58 *mp dolce*

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves.

mp dolce

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves.

mp dolce

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves.

mp dolce

gate. For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves.

mp dolce

(Ped.)

62 *mf* *mf* *rit.* *f*

Vi - ta mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf *f*

Man. Ped. (16') 32'

NEW HORIZONS showcases the wealth of exciting, innovative, and occasionally challenging choral music being written today. It encompasses the whole gamut of small-scale choral genres, both secular and sacred, and includes pieces for upper-voice and mixed choirs. With titles by some of the most accomplished choral composers active in Great Britain and abroad, the series introduces new repertoire and fresh talent to a broad spectrum of choirs.

Cecilia McDowall

Born in 1951 and educated at Edinburgh and London Universities, Cecilia McDowall has been described by the International Record Review as having a 'communicative gift that is very rare in modern music'. An award-winning composer, McDowall is often inspired by extra-musical influences, and her choral writing combines rhythmic vitality with expressive lyricism. Her music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading choirs, among them Phoenix Chorale and the Choir of New College, Oxford, and is regularly programmed at prestigious festivals in Britain and abroad.



Photo: Christie Dickason

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